

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 20208 121353Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5547
INFO USMISSION USUN
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 20208

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECOSOC
SUBJECT: RESTRUCTURING; FRENCH CANDIDATE FOR ESA
UNDER SECRETARY
REF: GENEVA 5605

1. QUAI UN DIRECTOR LECOMPT INFORMED EMBOFF JULY 11 THAT UN SYG WALDHEIM HAS ACCEPTED THE GOF NOMINATION OF JEAN RIPERT FOR THE POST OF UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (USYG/ESA). WALDHEIM IS SCHEDULED TO ANNOUNCE RIPERT'S APPOINTMENT JUST PRIOR TO THE SEPTEMBER RECONVENING OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING IN NEW YORK; THE APPOINTMENT WOULD TAKE EFFECT AS OF JANUARY 15, 1978 WHEN THE CONTRACT OF USYG/ESA VAN LAETHEM EXPIRES.

2. ACCORDING LECOMPT, WALDHEIM HAS DISCUSSED THIS APPOINTMENT WITH DADZIE (GHANA) AS CHAIRMAN OF THE RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE. DADZIE IS REPORTEDLY PREPARED TO STEER THE RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE AWAY FROM ANY FLAT ENDORSEMENT OF ESTABLISHING THE POST OF
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DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, AND WOULD BE SATISFIED TO HAVE THE COMMITTEE REPORT SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT THAT "SOME COMMITTEE MEMBERS PROPOSED" SUCH A NEW POST. LECOMPT CLAIMS THAT DADZIE AND OTHER LDC REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING ECOSOC IN GENEVA FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT IF GOF PROPOSED SUCH A HIGH LEVEL CANDIDATE FOR USYG/ESA,

IT WAS SO AS TO AVOID ANY INTERMEDIATE POSITION BEING
ESTABLISHED BETWEEN RIPERT AND WALDHEIM.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE ARE OF COURSE UNCERTAIN AS TO
WHETHER GOF IS ACCURATELY REFLECTING DADZIE POSITION
AND IF SO, WHETHER OTHER RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE
MEMBERS ARE PREPARED TO GIVE DIRECTOR GENERAL PROPOSAL
SUCH SHORT SHRIFT. CLEARLY, GOF CONSIDERS THAT
RIPERT'S NOMINATION IS AN OUTSTANDING ONE, IN THE LIGHT
OF WHICH, THEY WOULD LOOK UNFAVORABLY ON THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY NEW SENIOR POST INCLUDING DIRECTOR
GENERAL OR EVEN AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD DEPUTY SECRETARY
GENERAL. SINCE RIPERT HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE UN
COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING SINCE 1969, WE WOULD
BE INTERESTED IN COMMENTS REGARDING HIS QUALIFICATIONS
FROM THE US PARTICIPANT ON THAT COMMITTEE, WHO WE
UNDERSTAND TO BE MR. JOHN P. LEWIS.
HARTMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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